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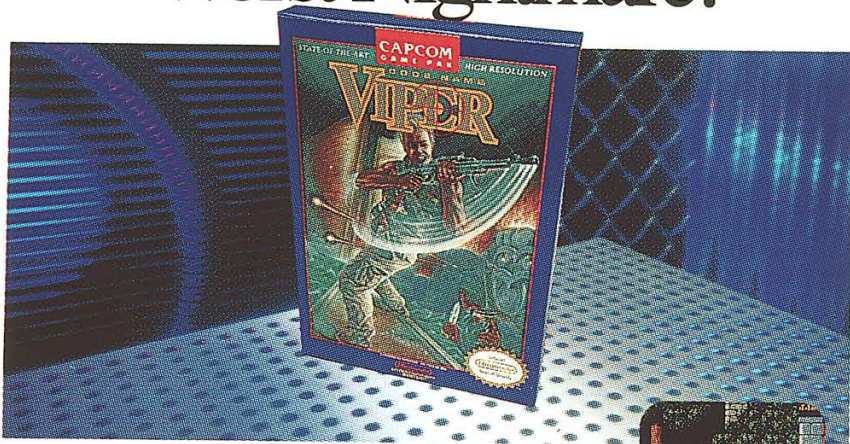
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TWICE A MONTH!

THE RETURN OF THE SINISTER SIX PART FIVE OF
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BATTLE ROYAL!



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Your commander has instructed you to destroy a powerful drug cartel in South America, free innocent hostages, and bring in the murderous Drug Lord. No Sweat, Right?

Within minutes of landing in the South American Jungle, you've infiltrated the drug cartel's bases. Dodging bullets, you stumble into a hidden door to find better fire-arms and ammo. Hostages, too. Things are lookin' up!

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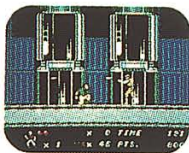
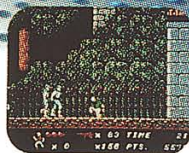
- **Power Jumping:** A great skill when you need to dodge bullets or mount sneak attacks.

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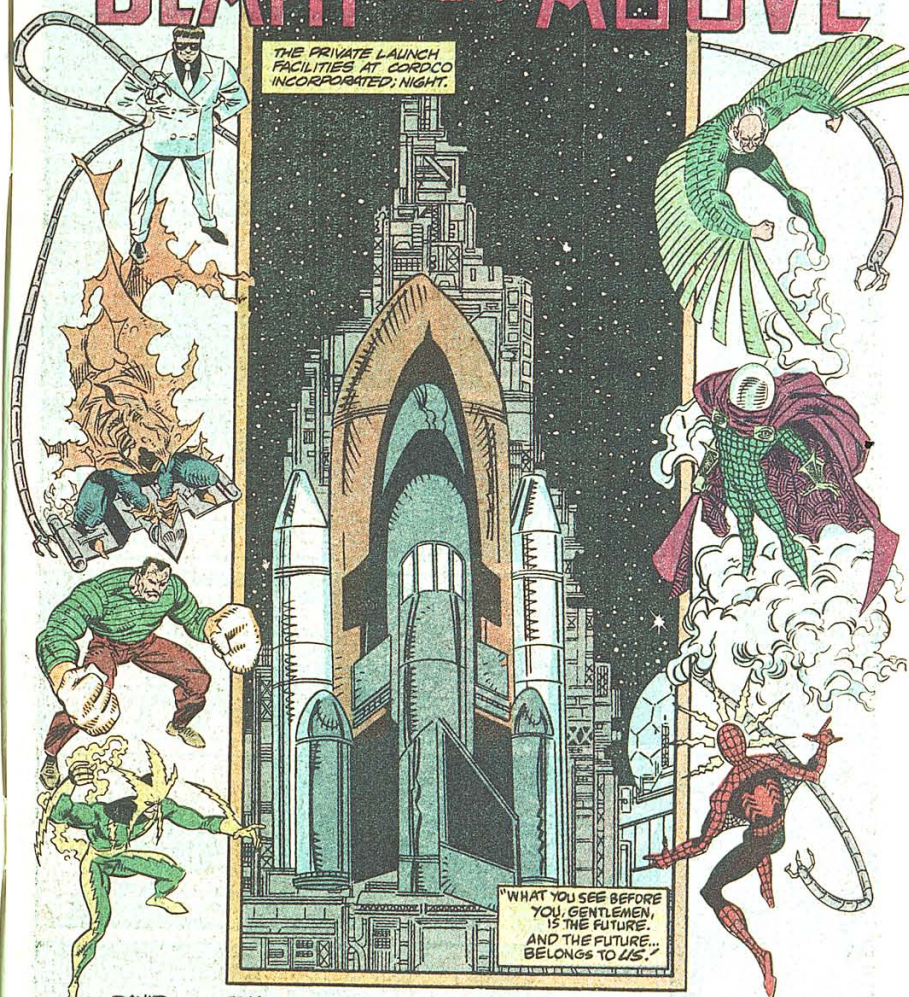
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Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

DEATH FROM ABOVE



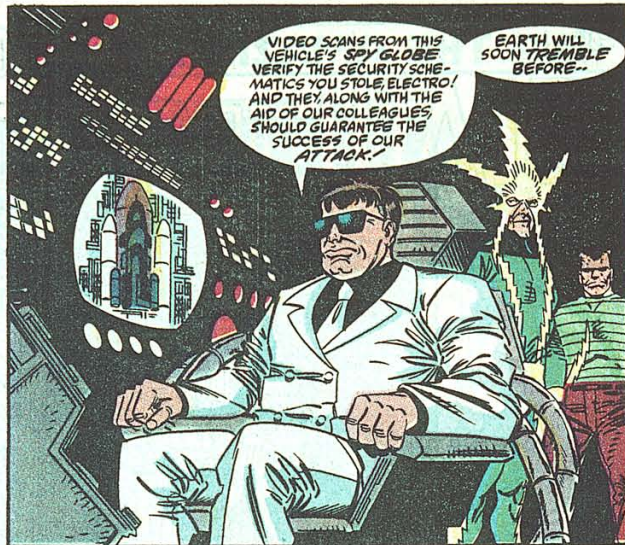
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"CORDCO WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT THEM! EVEN AS THEY ARE CURRENTLY OBVIOUS..."



VIDEO SCANS FROM THIS VEHICLE'S SPY GLOBE VERIFY THE SECURITY SCHEMATICS YOU STOLE, ELECTRO! AND THEY, ALONG WITH THE AID OF OUR COLLEAGUES, SHOULD GUARANTEE THE SUCCESS OF OUR ATTACK!

EARTH WILL SOON TREMBLE BEFORE--



--THE SINISTER SIX--



I DUNNO, DOCTOR OCTOPUS...

...IF WE REALLY HAFTA MAKE GOOD OUR THREATS, MILLIONS COULD DIE! I DON'T THINK--



REALLY, SANDMAN, DO YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE--

--THAT I CARE WHAT YOU THINK? SILENCE!

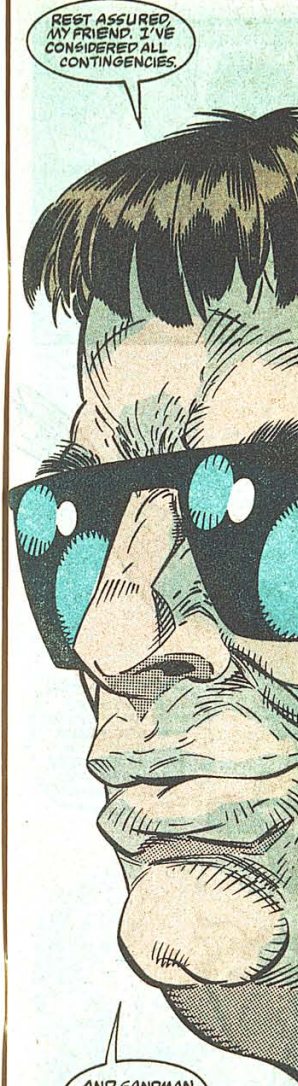


I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE WHINER, OCK.

HIS MISPLACED MORALITY COULD MEAN TROUBLE!



--TO THE FACT THAT WE'RE WATCHING THEIR EVERY MOVE FROM THE BOTTOM OF LONG ISLAND SOUND!



REST ASSURED, MY FRIEND, I'VE CONSIDERED ALL CONTINGENCIES.

AND SANDMAN WILL HELP US, ONE WAY...

...OR ANOTHER!

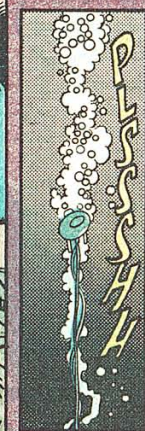


TAK



WHILE ON THE LANDBOUND SIDE OF THE CORDCO COMPLEX...

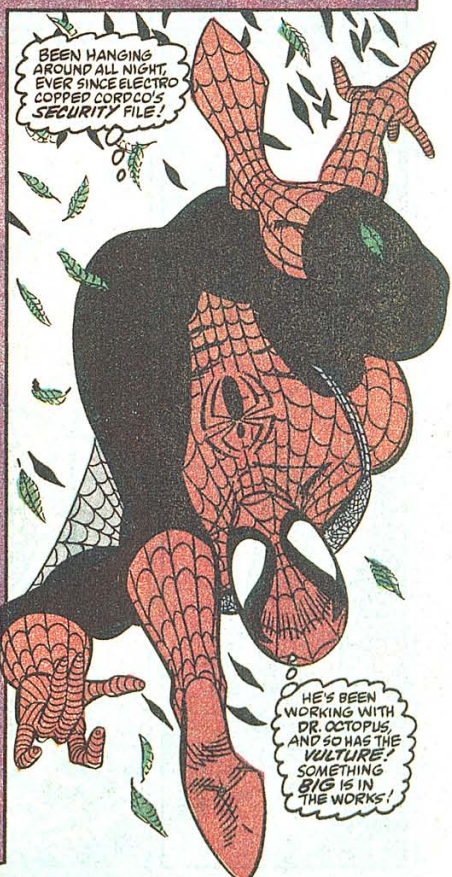
MY, THIS IS CERTAINLY SNAWNY EXCITING!



PLUSHH



WARRRR



BEEN HANGING AROUND ALL NIGHT, EVER SINCE ELECTRO COPPED CORDCO'S SECURITY FILE!

HE'S BEEN WORKING WITH DR. OCTOPUS, AND SO HAS THE VULTURE! SOMETHING BIG IS IN THE WORKS!



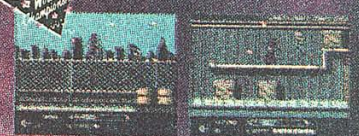
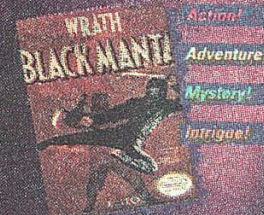
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Crime and kidnapping have put a death grip on New York, Tokyo and Rio. A solitary figure strives to squish the misguided dealings of a bunch of underhanded terrorists bent on kidnapping innocent kids. Only the Black Manta possesses the powers that can save them.

- Master the awesome power of the magical, dimensional sea.
- Discover clues that draw you to a dark, secret, and evil, underground.
- Experience international terrorists.
- Stunning 3D graphics.
- Exciting soundtrack.
- Relentlessly challenging.



Rated 4 out of 5 for graphics and sound, challenge and theme, in the Power Player Menu!

Nintendo Power, March, April 1998

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To compete for

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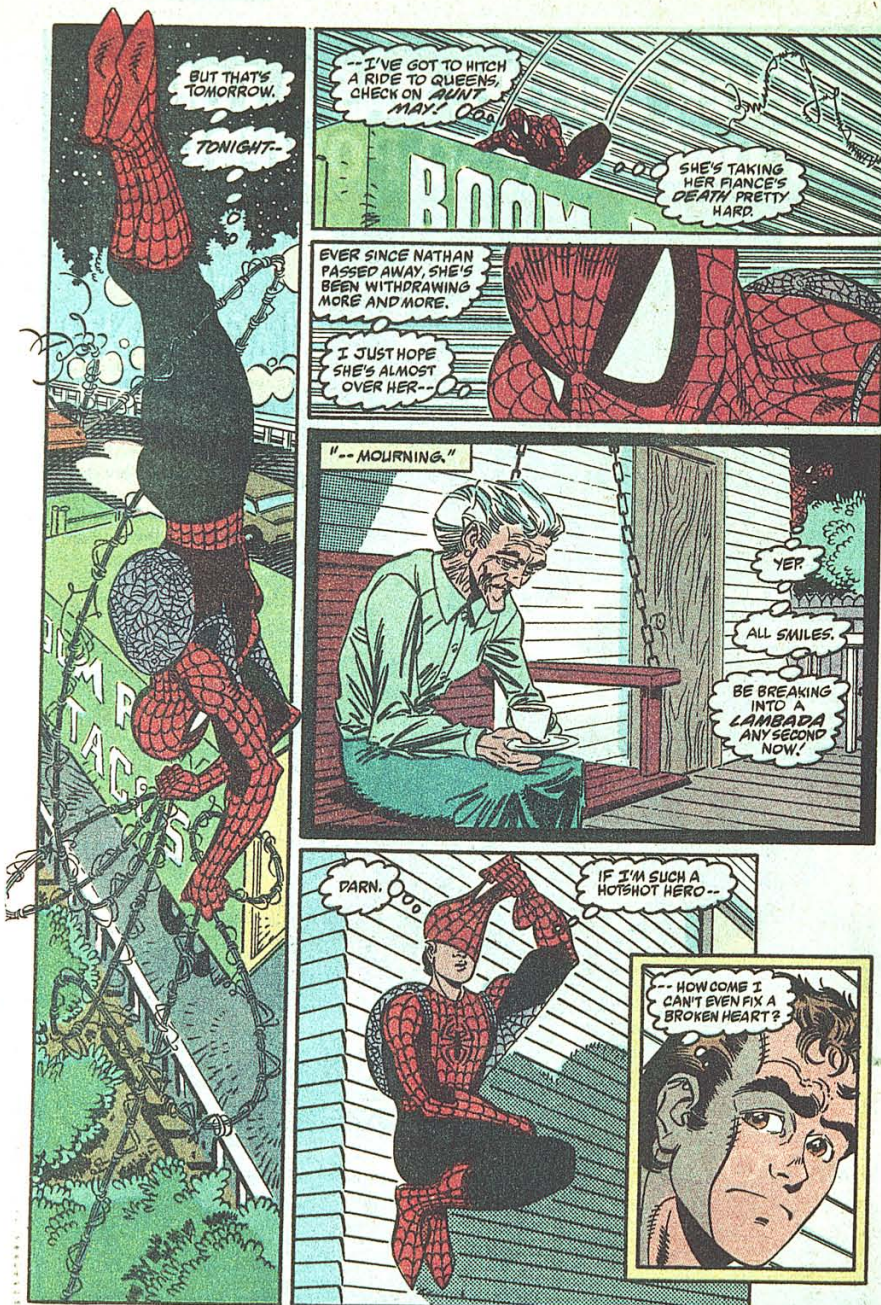
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SMASHING
SIMULTANEOUS
2-PLAYER ACTION!

NARC

"NO ONE HAD THE GUTS ... UNTIL NOW"

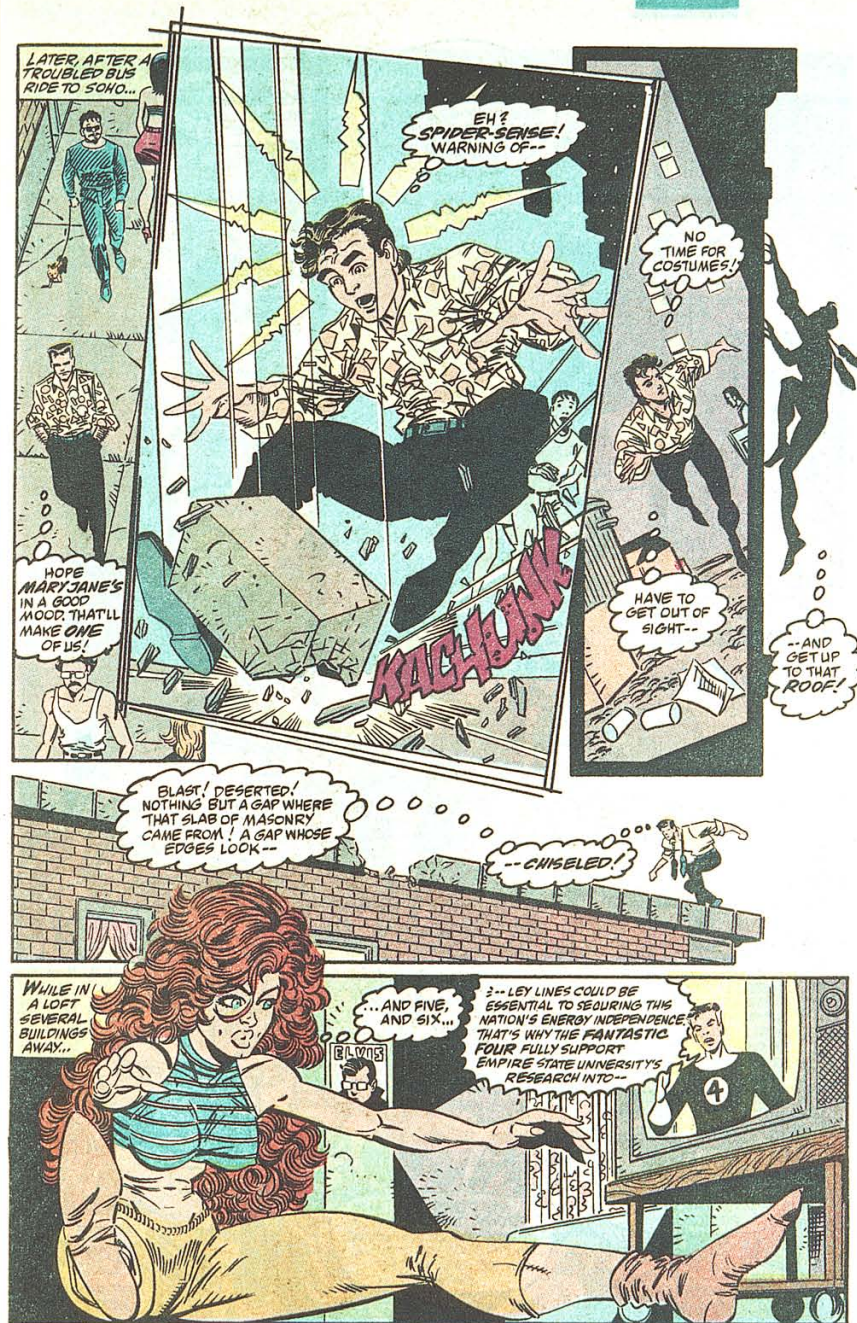
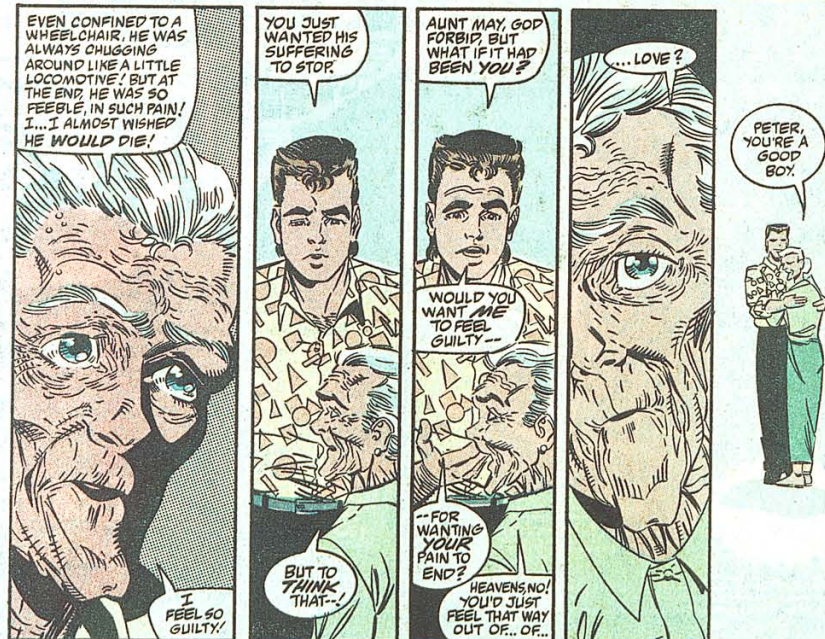
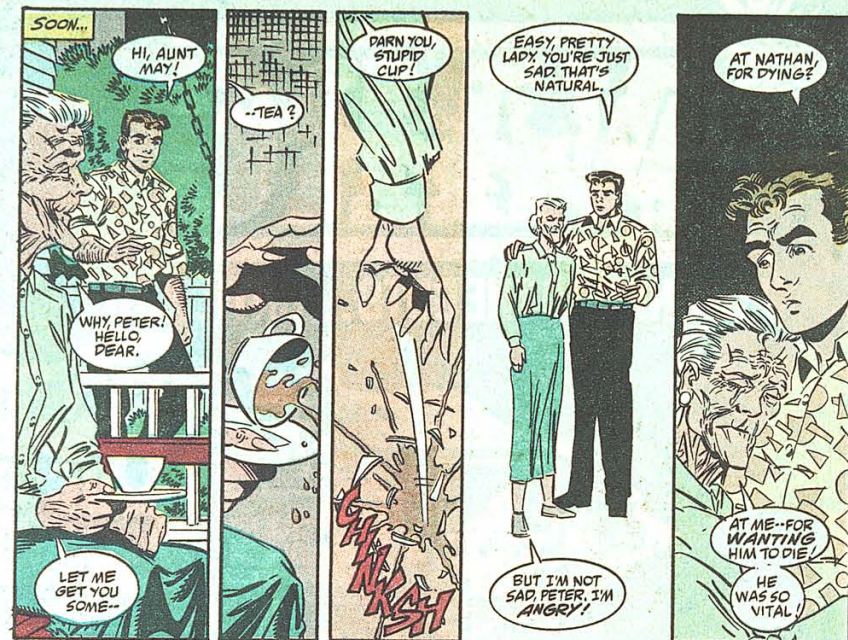


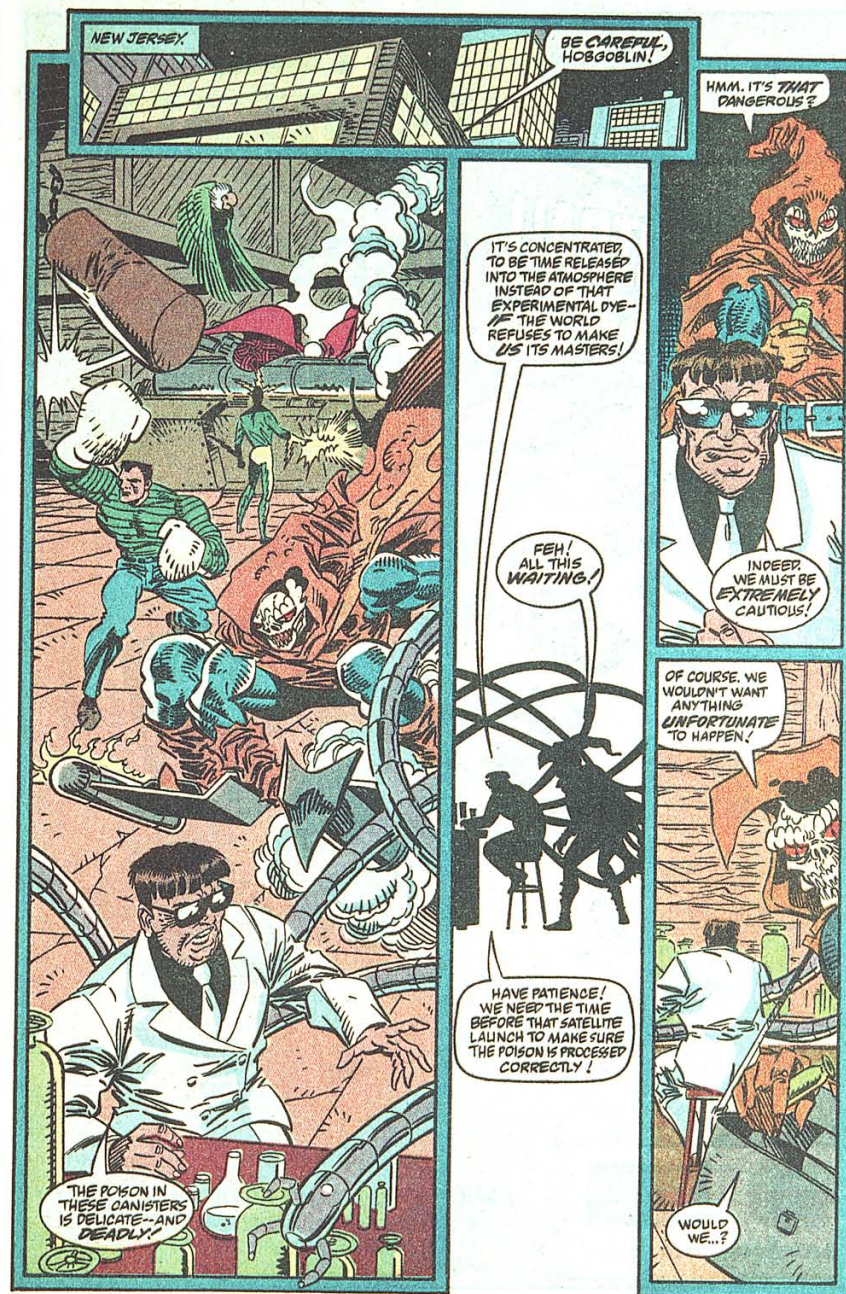
You are Max Force... your mission... bust Mr. Big and destroy the dreaded criminal empire... seize all contraband, stolen money, illegal weapons... use rocket bombs, high-powered machine guns... apprehend all suspects... protect the innocent and punish the guilty... stop at nothing!



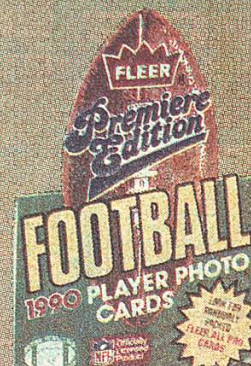
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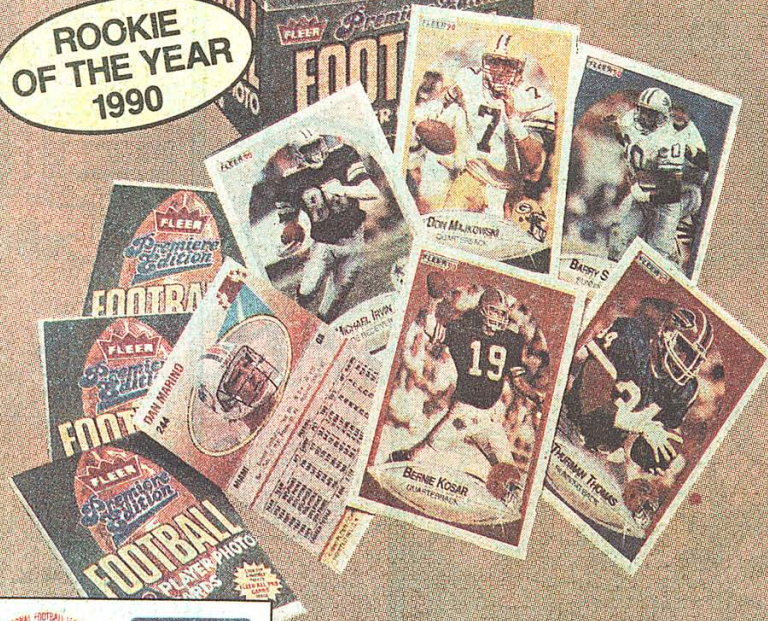




FLEER... FOOTBALL'S ROOKIE SENSATION!



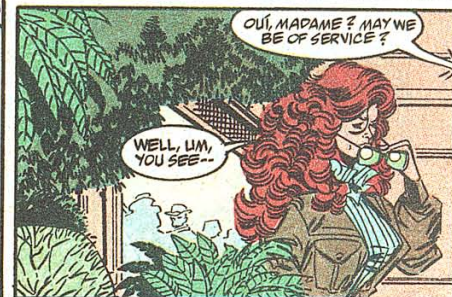
ROOKIE
OF THE YEAR
1990

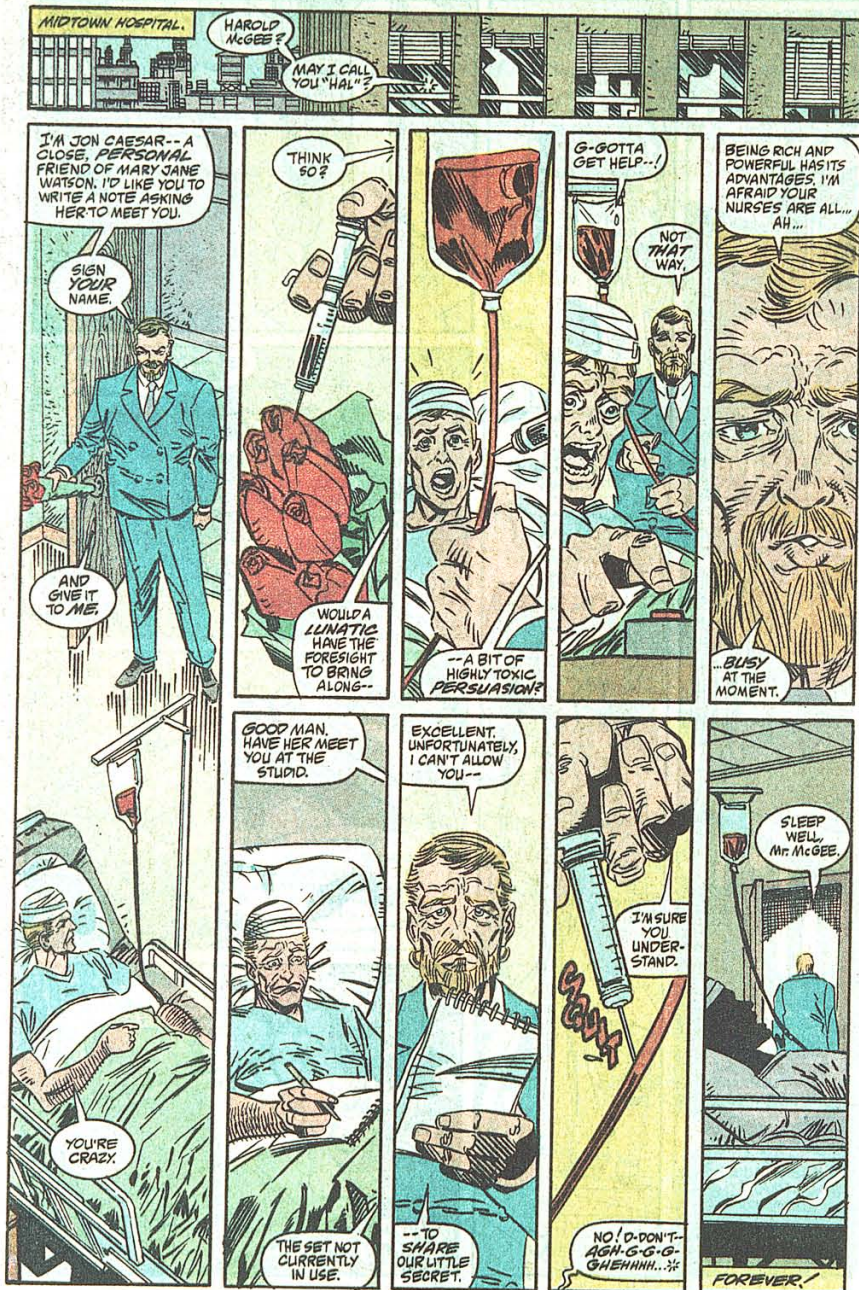


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- TOP ROOKIES, SUPERBOWL MVPs
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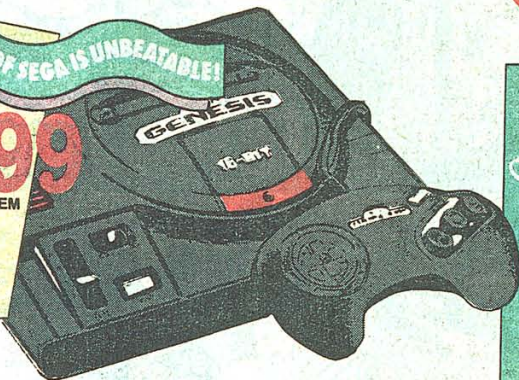
YOUR VIDEO GAME HEADQUARTERS

OUR SELECTION OF SEGA IS UNBEATABLE!

189.99

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System provides high definition graphics and stereo sound. Control pad and Altered Beast game pak included. Software sold separately.



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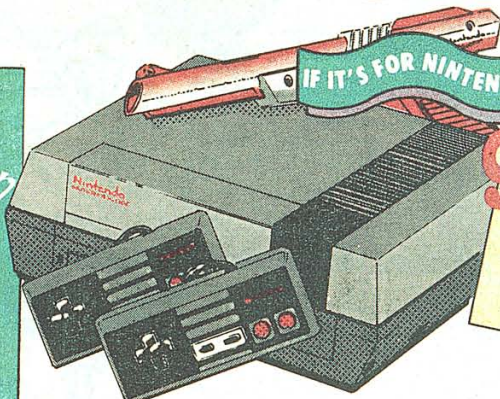
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IF IT'S FOR NINTENDO, WE'VE GOT IT!

99.99

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Deluxe set includes Control Deck, 2 game controllers, Zapper Light Gun and double game pak. Software sold separately.

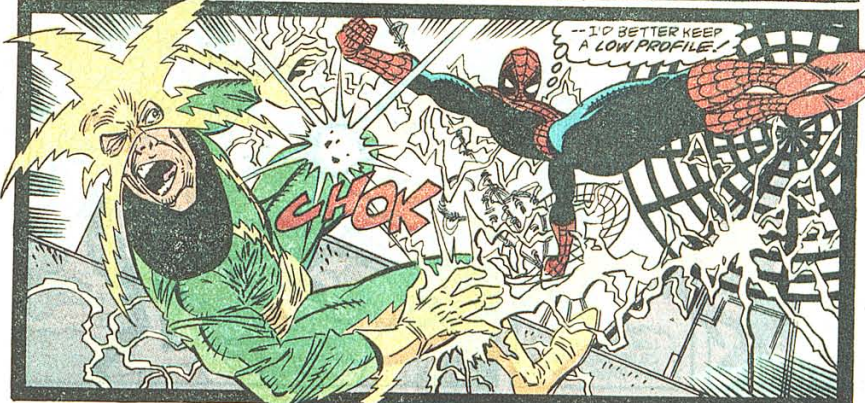
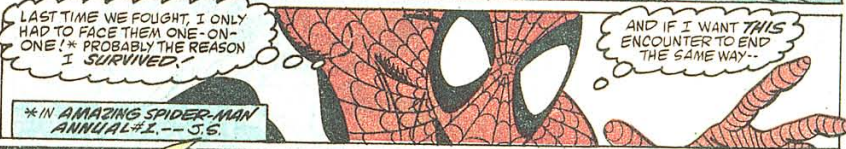
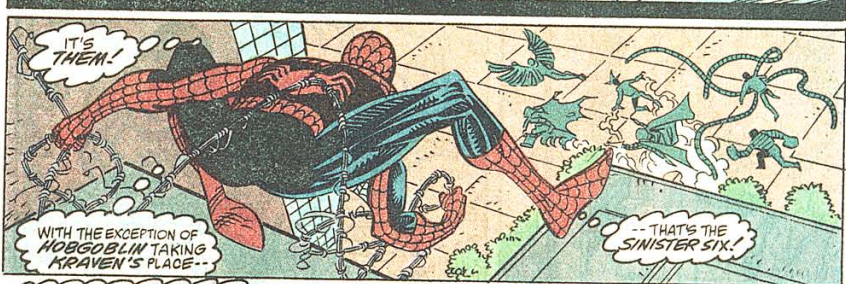
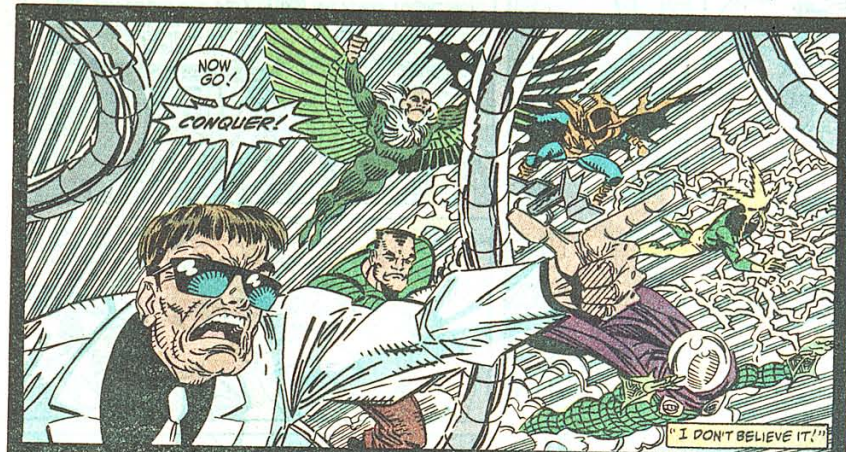
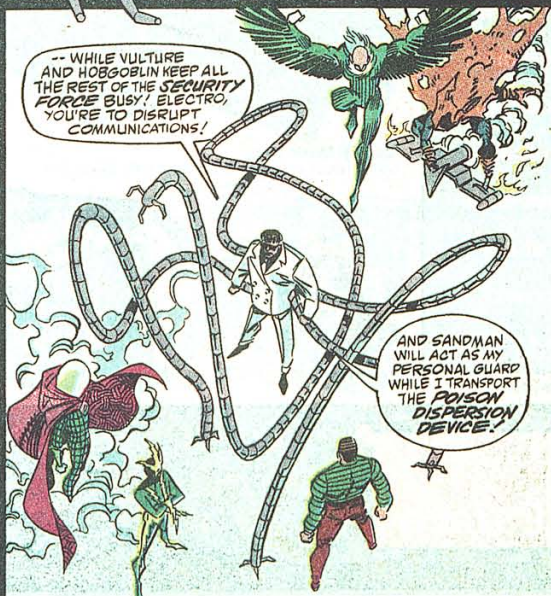
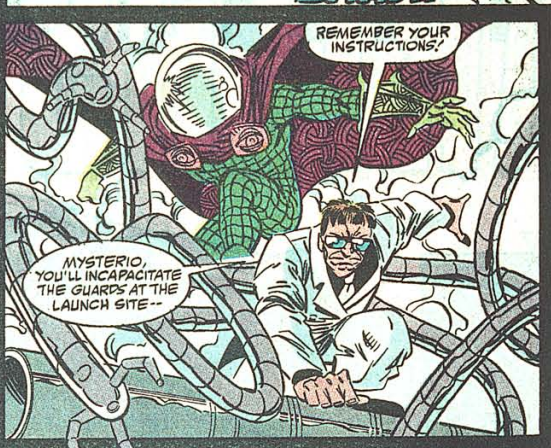
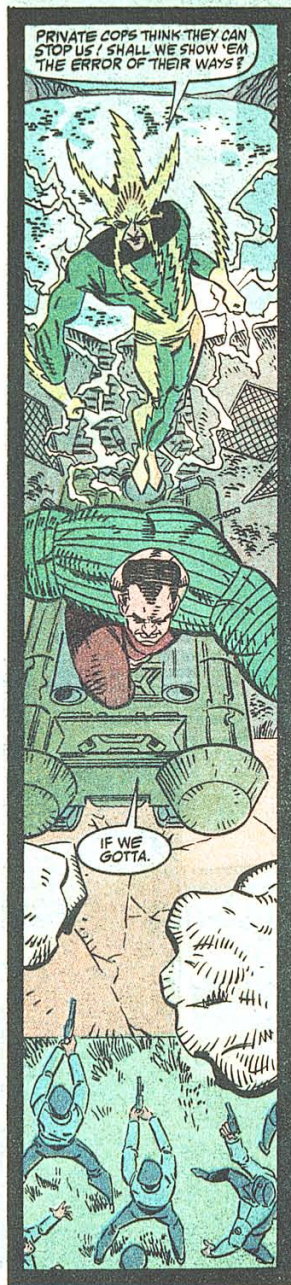


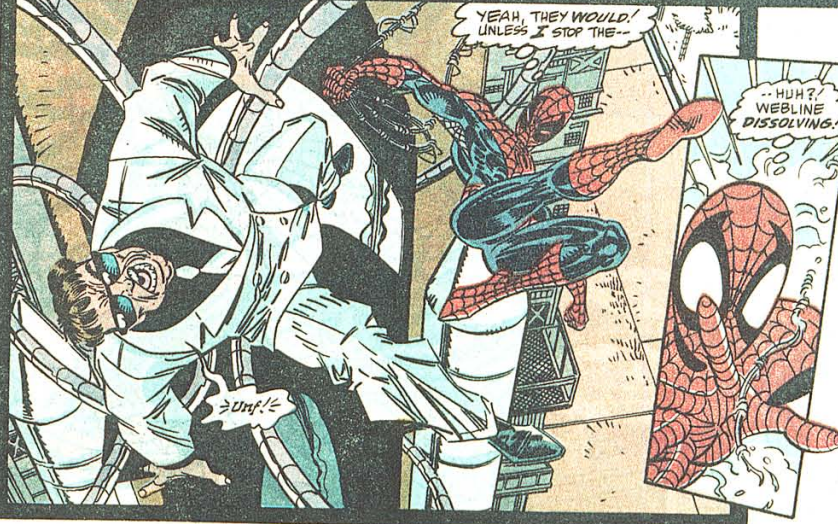
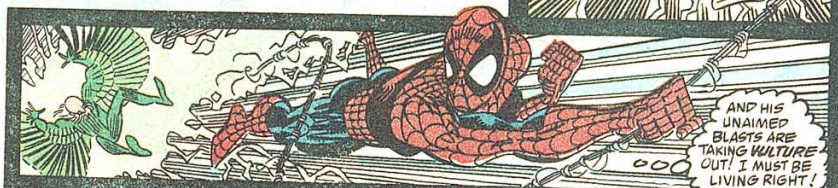
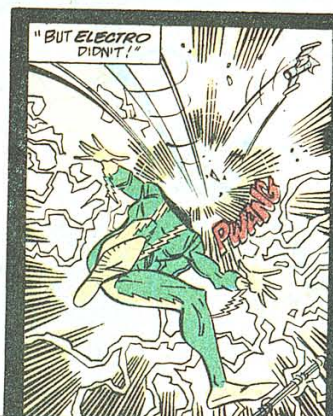
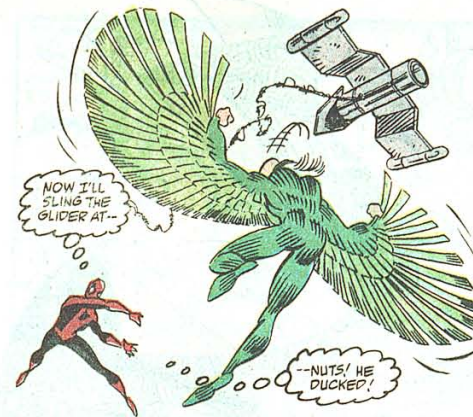
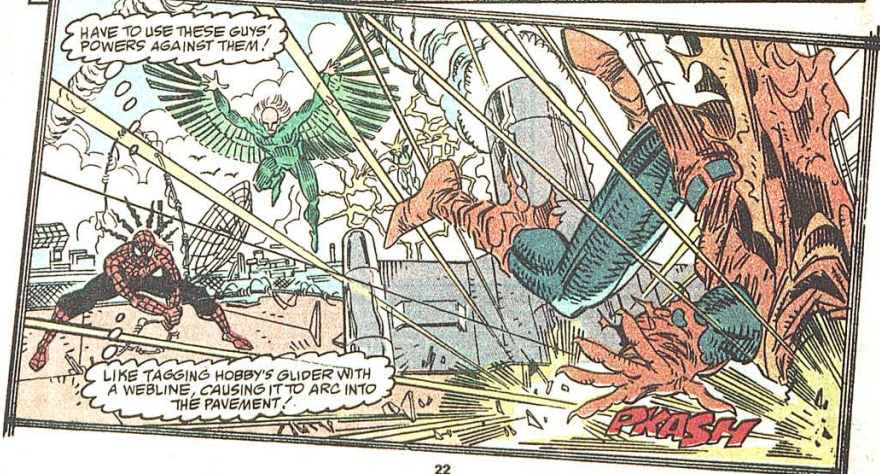
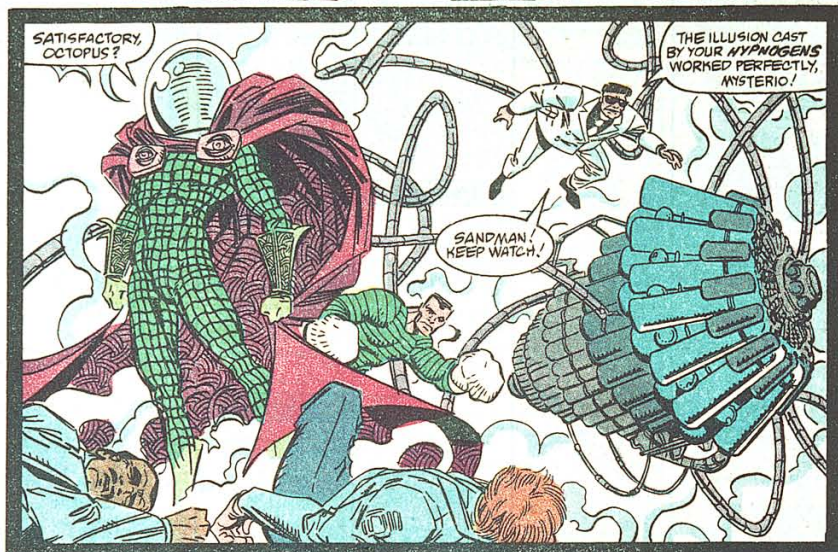
\$3 OFF Mario Doll!

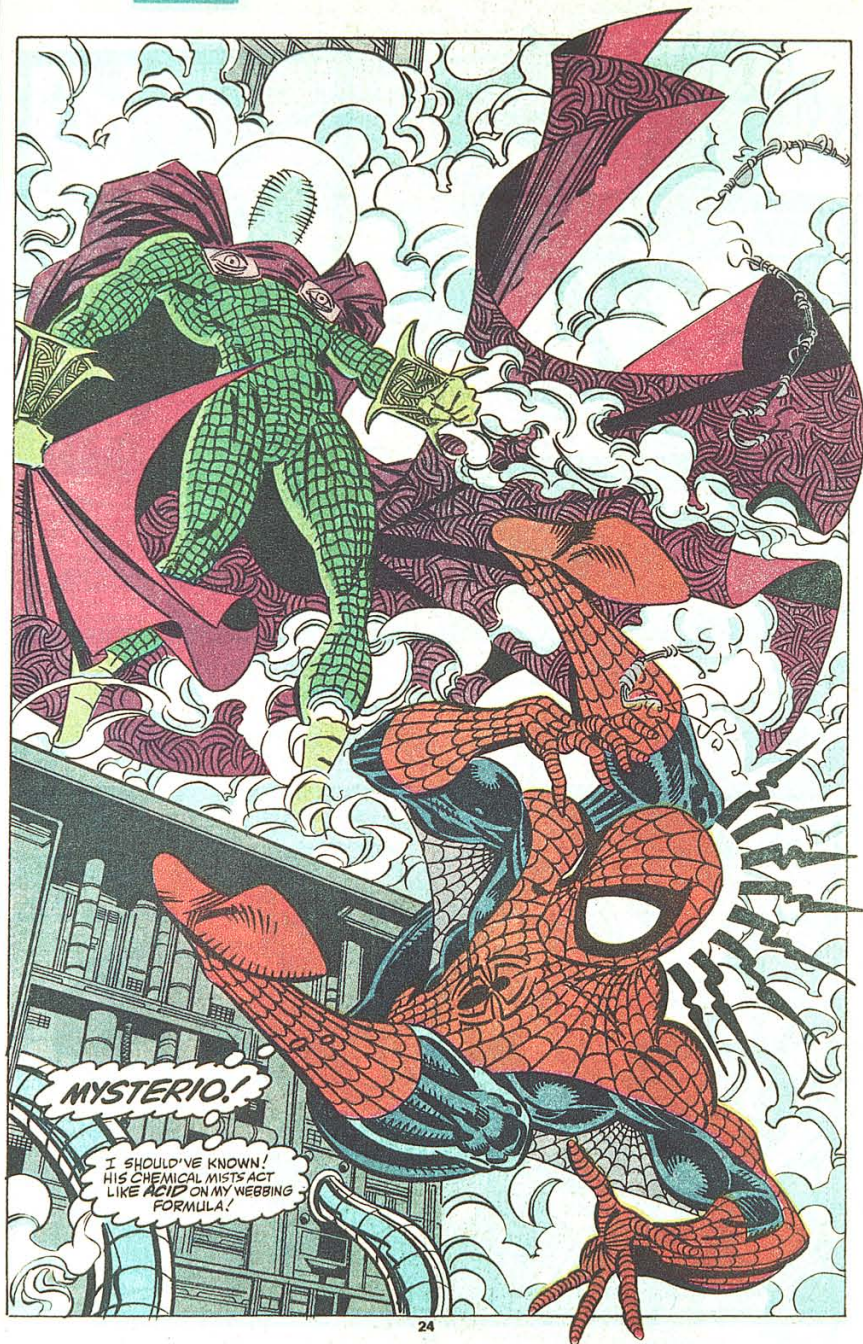
Come in today and pick up a \$3 coupon at the Service Desk



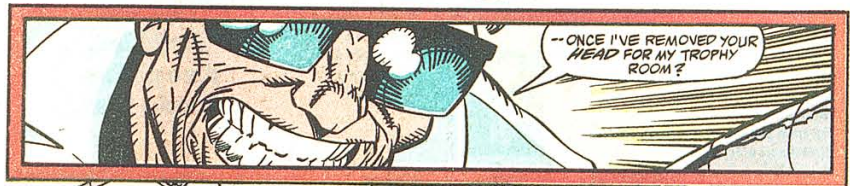
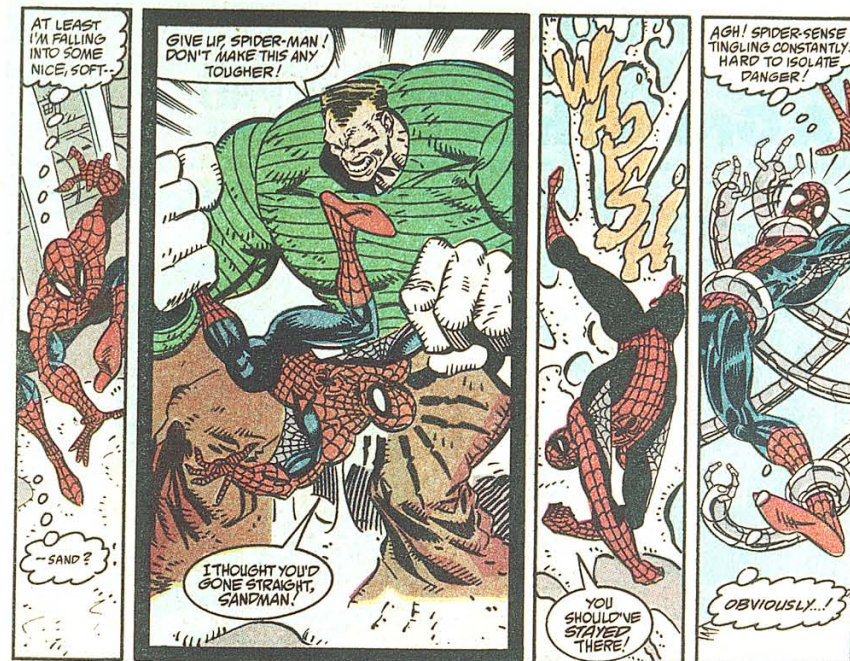
Child World Children's Palace







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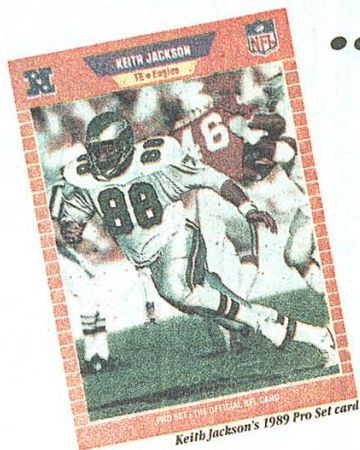


25

A Great Thing...



...Just Got Better!



Announcing 1990 NFL Pro Set!

In its record rookie year, 1989, Pro Set had a dream season, presenting the action and excitement of the National Football League as no card series ever had.

But Pro Set, the official card of the NFL, isn't resting on its laurels. Pro Set is back in 1990 with more than 800 new cards that have collectors, hobbyists, and football fans buzzing.

All New Series I...

Here's the 1990 Pro Set game plan: In May, Series I (green packs) debuts with more than 400 player and coach cards, award and stat leader cards, AFC Pro Bowl players' cards, and Super Bowl theme art collectibles. Each pack also includes a Pro Set Playbook containing two special features—*Instant Win* and *Get the Points!*, in which extra points may be saved to get free or discounted NFL merchandise.

...and Series II

In September, 1990, Series II (yellow packs) will hit the stores with *totally*

different cards and collectibles (there will be *no* repeats from Series I). In addition to nearly 250 more players, Series II includes NFC Pro Bowl players, 1990 draft choices, Pro Set Prospects, cards for the four American Bowl games, and Super Bowl MVP collectibles—plus Pro Set Playbooks.

Super Bowl Hologram!

As a special bonus, 10,000 numbered hologram collectibles of the Vince



Lombardi Trophy are randomly inserted into 1990 Pro Set packs.

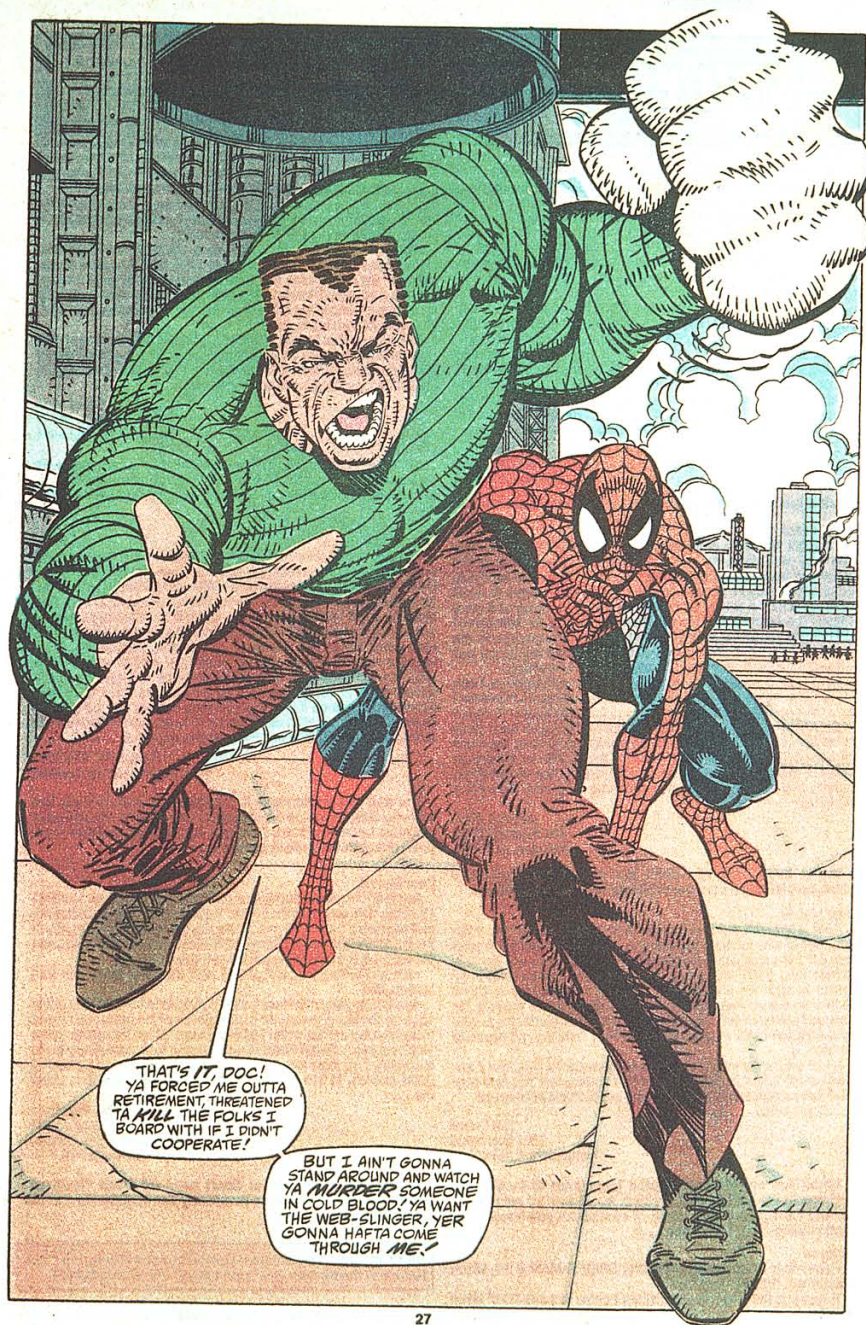
Free Pro Set Card!

To get you started in 1990, we'll send you a *free* Barry Sanders 1990 Pro Set NFL Rookie of the Year card (shown below), plus a copy of the new edition of *Pro Set Gazette*. Send your name and address to: Rookie of the Year, NFL Pro Set, 15303 Dallas Parkway, Suite 1300, Dallas, TX, 75248. The offer is good while supplies last...so hurry!

**Buy 'Em.
Keep 'Em.
Trade 'Em.**



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THAT'S IT, DOC!
YA FORCED ME OUTTA
RETIREMENT, THREATENED
TA KILL THE FOLKS I
BOARD WITH IF I DIDN'T
COOPERATE!

BUT I AIN'T GONNA
STAND AROUND AND WATCH
YA MURDER SOMEONE
IN COLD BLOOD! YA WANT
THE WEB-SLINGER, YER
GONNA HAF TA COME
THROUGH ME!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

JIM SALICRUP
ARACHNERD
DAN CUDDY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Sirs,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #331 was one good issue, though I credit the writing a lot more than I do the art. David Michelinie (how do you pronounce that last name?) has come up with some interesting plots, enough to keep readers coming back. I am coming to like Eric Larsen's pencils. At first, when I read issue #324, I said "yeeecch!" And when I learned that Larsen was up to replace McFarlane on the book, I said double "yeeecch!" But after a few more issues, I've got to admit that his art is okay. He's not Todd McFarlane, but he's got my vote!

I'd like to comment again on the writing, however. It's clear that Venom is back again. Look, he's a great villain; perhaps the best Spider-Man villain since the Green Goblin, but he just appeared a couple of issues ago and now he's back again. There's certainly nothing wrong with bringing a villain back (keeps the heroes busy!) but guard against using a villain too much. It gets harder for the writer to explain how the villain is not defeated again. I think this happened to the Green Goblin. Each and every time he was used was more and more anti-climatic than the previous time.

Kenneth Byrd
371 E. 57th Street
Chicago, IL 60637

David's last name rhymes with "pickle my knee," Kenneth.

Dear Spider-folk,

I thought the return of Venom in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #331 was very well done, as was the ebony antithesis' death in the preceding issue. David Michelinie is to be commended for Eddie Brock's resurrection; it really grabbed me. In fact, I seem to recall being struck by a similar comeback before... perhaps in a story called "The Autopsy" by Michael Shea. Ring a bell, Mr. Michelinie? Let me give you a hint: an alien nasty takes over this guy's body; the guy dies, but during the autopsy the alien attacks the doctor performing the examination and... well, maybe I was wrong.

All in all, this was a very interesting and well written issue; I was particularly intrigued by the idea of a cocaine standard. However, I did spot one ensey teensy mistake; you forgot to kill the Punisher while you had the chance. The only excuse for this goof that I could come up with was that Marvel Comics was just making too much money off this character to get rid of the macho moron. Otherwise Marvel would have ditched such an unappealing, one-dimensional, violent, and all around unheroic character long ago. Do I get a No-Prize?

Julian A. Gray
181 Skyridge Drive
Anniston, AL 36201

You're lucky that you don't get one of the Punisher's patented pistols up your proboscis for that remark, Juliana.

Dear Marvel,

ASM #331 was my first issue in a long time, and it was a big reminder of why I stopped buying it. I can't believe you [censored] had the unmitigated [censored] to do a story where the U.S. Government (NOT just a "loose cannon" somewhere) is involved in such an absurd drug operation! Noted only is David Michelinie a worthless hack, but he has no business pushing his paranoid hatred of our nation's leaders on the multitude of kids who read SPIDER-MAN comics. Preposterous, insulting, propaganda [censored].

All of you who are in any way involved with this story are [censored] and should be ashamed of yourselves! You also may have just convinced me to stop buying any Marvels ever again! So long, jerks!

Tim Dwyer
7805 Glenwood
Overland Park, KS 66204

Since Tim had the unmitigated [censored] to include his address in his maledictive missive, we should all send him a bar of soap (government issue, of course) for you-know-what. Just kidding, Tim. Tim? Hello...?

Gang—

Remember the cover to AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #112, which threatened, "Spidey Cops Out?"

It was just the reaction I had when I came to page 20 of issue #331.

That's the page where Spidey and the Punisher, after learning of a fiendish government plot, rationalize their way out of exposing it because it might hurt the public "morale." Gimme a break.

Granted, Spidey probably would have had the same trouble using the U.S. Government as he did cashing a check at a bank all those years ago, but there's an obvious alternative.

He's a newspaperman. He could have contacted the Bugle with leads and evidence, either before or after destroying the drugs. Although we would think that after several years of such employment at a so-called "crusading" newspaper, he wouldn't purposely suppress such important news, wouldn't say, in essence, that "what the public doesn't know won't hurt them."

This story doesn't really show that Spidey copped out; it shows your creative team bit off more than it could chew with an overly grandiose plot and then resolved it expediently, without thinking its consequences through. We deserve better.

PMM David Allen
1329 Edwards Ave., Apt. C
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

No, David, you deserve the best! We take your comments, as well as everyone else's, to heart and try our best to meet your high standards. We may not always succeed, but we'll always try.

Dear Spider-People,

The Amazing Spider-Man and the Punisher have always made one superior team, no matter what book or what storyline. But "The Death Standard," in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #331 will stand out for years to come because of the controversial subject at hand. This storyline could be called a real life "What If" situation because it is not entirely impossible! With all the corruption in the United States over many topics that one such as this drug problem could be another problem that Americans could face. I agree entirely with what the Punisher said, and although it may not have been the honest thing to do, it was the right thing to do. What would the American people do if they found out the secrets that our government may be hiding from us? This is somewhat like the controversy surrounding the airplane crash at Lockerby, Scotland.

Patrick Mac Laughlin
(Address withheld by request)

You and Tim would make interesting pen pals, Patrick. Too bad you didn't have the unmitigated [censored] to include your address. Let's hear from someone who has yet another viewpoint about this issue's resolution...

Dear Marvel,

As I read the name "Buchinsky" on the door (page 17, issue #331) I thought, "Oh, another inside joke." Buchinsky is Charles Bronson's real name and he played characters like the Punisher, especially in the DEATH WISH films. I thought this small detail would have been the extent of the reference, but then I turned the page!

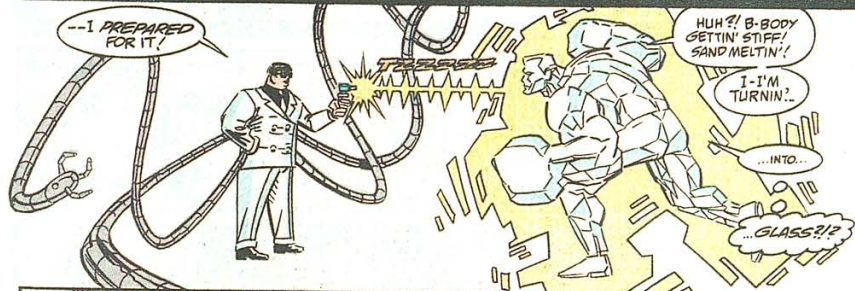
With McFarlane it was Felix, so now it's Betty Boop with Erik Larsen, eh?

And finally, please (please!) stop putting little boxes of the guest stars on the top of the cover. It reminds me of the posters for those tacky disaster movies of the 70s (you know: "Ernest Borgnine as the ship's captain"). Roger Ebert's Box Rule says to "automatically avoid such films," so logic tells me to avoid such comics (but it's such a good comic!). Is this a wise decision? Help me, please... help me...

Kris Gallimore
129 Woodside St
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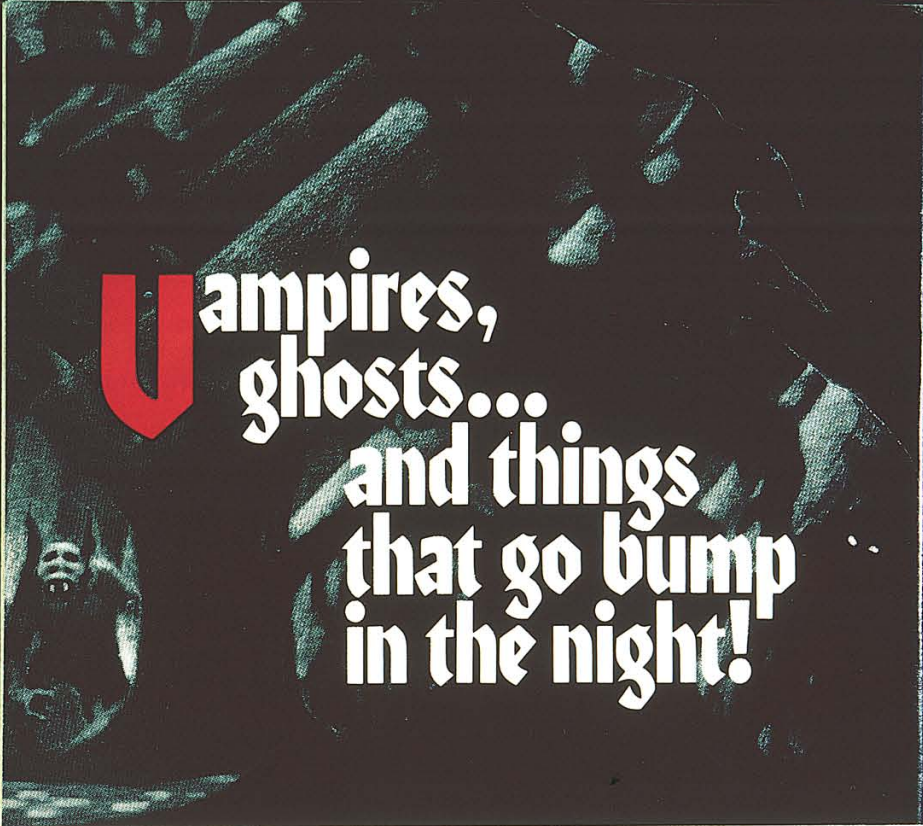
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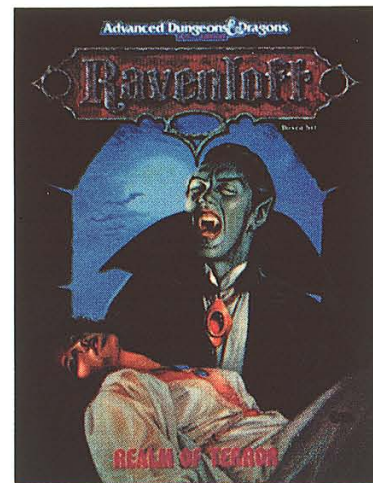


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